

What is claimed is:

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- 5 1. A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus comprising:
a static magnetic field generator for generating a static field;
a gradient magnetic field generator for generating a gradient magnetic
field that is superimposed on the static magnetic field;
a radio-frequency magnetic field pulse transmitting/receiving unit,
which applies a radio-frequency pulse to a region of interest of a patient that is
located within the static magnetic field, and which also receives a magnetic
resonance signal that is generated from the patient;
10 a patient couch, which enables movement of the patient;
a position information establishing apparatus which establishes
position information of the region of interest of the patient; and
a patient couch controller for moving the patient couch, based on the
region of interest position information, so that the region of interest is
15 positioned either at the center of the static magnetic field, or at the center of
the gradient magnetic field.
2. A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the position information establishing apparatus comprises an input
apparatus that inputs position information, based on an image of the patient
20 that is obtained from the magnetic resonance signal.
3. A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the position information establishing apparatus comprises a position
detection apparatus that detects the position of the region of interest.
4. A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 3,
25 wherein the patient couch controller performs approximate positioning of the
patient couch, based on a signal from the position detection apparatus.
5. A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

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wherein the patient couch is capable of moving the patient in the horizontal and vertical directions.

6. A method for performing magnetic resonance imaging diagnosis, comprising the steps of:

5 placing the patient onto a patient couch that is disposed within a static magnetic field and a gradient magnetic field;

moving the patient couch approximately, based on a signal from a position detector, so that the region of interest of the patient approximately coincides with the center of the static magnetic field or the center of the
10 gradient magnetic field;

applying a radio-frequency pulse to the region of interest of the patient, and receiving a magnetic resonance signal that is generated from the patient;

reproducing a plurality of images of the patient, based on the magnetic resonance signal;

15 selecting an image that includes the region of interest from the plurality of images of the patient; and

moving the patient couch, based on the selected image, so that the region of interest of the patient coincides precisely with the center of the static magnetic field or the center of the gradient magnetic field.

20 7. A method for performing magnetic resonance imaging diagnosis according to claim 6, wherein the step of selecting an image further comprises a step of selecting a region of interest within the selected image.

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